

Sedgwick County Autism Resource Guide

A free guide for parents of children ages 2 – 8 recently diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder.



Disclaimer: This guide is for general information only and does not constitute any endorsement, preference, or recommendation by Rainbows United, Inc. There is no guarantee the information is complete or the most current. Rainbows United, Inc., assumes no responsibility for errors or omissions in the content.



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1. About This Guide

The Autism Resource Guide is designed to help parents and caregivers identify services in Sedgwick County for young children (ages 2 – 8) who have a new diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder. It includes details that may be helpful to families who are unfamiliar with disability services and contact information for local providers who have experience serving children with autism.

The information provided in this guide is not medical advice. It is general information that we hope will be helpful for parents and caregivers. Every child with autism is unique, and for this reason, the information in this guide may not be applicable to everyone.

This guide frequently refers to materials developed by Autism Speaks, a national awareness and research organization. This is because their website offers detailed information on a variety of topics relating to autism in early childhood. For a full list of their toolkits and guides, see: www.autismspeaks.org/directory. Several of these materials are available in other languages.

This guide was made possible by grants from the Lattner Family Foundation and the Kansas Health Foundation.

2. Disability Services in Sedgwick & Surrounding Counties

Families who are new to disability services should be aware that there is a local agency called Families Together, Inc., that is designated to help you navigate disability systems.

Families Together, Inc.

3033 W. 2nd St., Rm. 122, Wichita, KS 67203
(316) 945-7747 | wichita@famieliestogetherinc.org
www.famieliestogetherinc.org

Families Together is Kansas' central hub for supporting families of children with a disability. They provide free, individualized assistance to answer questions and help parents navigate systems and services, including applying for autism and intellectual and/or developmental disability (I/DD) waivers, locating and accessing resources for your child, parent support, and education advocate training. Services are available in English and Spanish.

KDADS Autism Waiver Program

503 S. Kansas Ave., Topeka, KS 66603
(785) 296-3913 | leigh.smith@ks.gov
[kdads.ks.gov/kdads-commissions/long-term-services-supports/home-community-based-services-\(hcbs\)-programs/programs/autism](http://kdads.ks.gov/kdads-commissions/long-term-services-supports/home-community-based-services-(hcbs)-programs/programs/autism)

Children under the age of 5 who have a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder are eligible to apply for the state's Autism Waiver through the Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services (KDADS). The autism waiver supports family adjustment counseling, parent support and training, and respite care. There is a waitlist for services at this time. Applications are available in English and Spanish.

Each Kansas county has its own **Community Developmental Disability Organization (CDDO)** that serves as a single point of entry to help coordinate services and supports for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities residing in that county.

There is a two-step process available for children ages 5 and older who have a diagnosis of autism or other disability: 1) Parents submit an application to their local CDDO to see if their child is eligible for services; 2) If they are determined to be eligible, parents are encouraged to apply for Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) as soon as applications are accepted because there is a waitlist for services. HCBS may provide support or other services depending upon eligibility, including Targeted Case Management to help navigate disability and other systems.

**Sedgwick County Community
Developmental Disability Organization**

271 W. 3rd St., Ste. 500, Wichita, KS 67202
1 (855) 200-2372 | scddo@sedgwick.gov

www.sedgwickcounty.org/developmental-disabilities/

For Sedgwick County residents. The SCDDO encourages parents of children ages birth – 4 to apply for Medicaid. Medicaid eligibility is based on income. Targeted Case Management is included as a benefit for children who qualify for Medicaid.

Parents can apply for Home and Community Based Service before their child turns 5, but children cannot be added to the waiting list until they are 5 years old. Parents should apply as soon as they can due to the waitlist length for services. Contact the Service Access Team at the phone number above to apply.

**Butler County Community
Developmental Disability Organization**

2101 Dearborn, Ste. 301, Augusta, KS 67010
(316) 322-8777 | rikki@cddobutlercounty.org
www.cddobutlercounty.org

For Butler County residents. Please call or email Rikki Bowker to schedule an intake meeting. Parents of children ages birth – 4 can apply to receive Targeted Case Management and annual Family Support Funding. Parents of children who will be turning 5 can start the application process for Home and Community Based Services eligibility a few months before their child's 5th birthday. Other resources may be available.

**Sumner County Community
Developmental Disability Organization**

P.O. Box 626, Wellington, KS 67152
(620) 326-6100
dpok.com/sumner-county-cddo/

For Sumner County residents. Parents of children ages birth – 4 can apply to receive Targeted Case Management. Parents of children who will be turning 5 can start the application process for Home and Community Based Services eligibility a few months before their child's 5th birthday. There is a waitlist for services. Other resources may be available.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment's Special Health Care Needs Program is an assistance program for children and youth who have a qualifying medical condition.

KDHE Special Health Care Needs Program

1000 SW Jackson, Ste. 220, Topeka, KS 66612
(785) 296-1313

www.kdhe.ks.gov/747/Special-Health-Care-Needs
Eligibility Requirements:

www.kdhe.ks.gov/762/Eligibility-Requirements

The Kansas Special Health Care Needs (SHCN) Program provides specialized medical services to children and youth ages birth – 21 who have eligible medical conditions, and whose families are eligible based on their income. Children who qualify may receive diagnostic services, holistic care coordination, direct assistance programs, cost sharing and financial support. Parents or caregivers should review eligibility guidelines and the Kansas Special Health Care Needs Decision Schema* to see if their child has a qualifying disability. Autism is not a qualifying disability, but a child with autism and an eligible condition, such as seizure disorder, would be medically eligible for services. Additionally, a child may qualify for services without a specific qualifying disability if they are a recipient of Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Services available in English and Spanish.

Parents in **any** Kansas county who suspect their child has autism, are in the process of getting a diagnosis, or who have a diagnosis can request support from the Kansas Family Resource Center, a project of the Kansas Center for Autism Research and Training housed at the University of Kansas Medical Center.

* Special Health Care Needs Decision Schema: <https://www.kdhe.ks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6185/Kansas-Special-Health-Care-Needs-Decision-Schema-PDF>

The Kansas Family Support Center

3901 Rainbow Blvd. MS #4003, Kansas City, KS 66106
(913) 945-6619 | kfsc@kumc.edu
kfsc.ku.edu/

Intake form:

redcap.kumc.edu/surveys/?s=RT98KRPTLMJ8CYAW

This statewide program supports all Kansas children and youth with autism, intellectual/developmental and other disabilities, and behavioral support needs, no matter where they are located. KFSC's team of researchers and certified autism providers work together to provide information and support that is tailored to the needs of your child and family. Parents (birth, foster, or kinship) and all caregivers of children and youth with disabilities are encouraged to call or complete an intake form (link above) to connect with a referral specialist. KFSC primarily serves children and youth up to age 18. There is no waitlist for services at this time. Interpretation & translation services can be provided for most languages.

NOTES:

3. What Is Autism?

The National Institute of Health defines autism spectrum disorder (ASD) as *a neurological and developmental disorder that affects how people interact with others, communicate, learn, and behave. It is known as a ‘spectrum’ disorder because there is wide variation in the type and severity of symptoms that people experience.*¹ Autism is a lifelong condition that presents uniquely in every individual who has it. Autism Speaks identifies some of the most common symptoms of autism as:

- Difficulty speaking and making eye contact (up to one-third of children with autism are nonverbal)
- Difficulty understanding facial expressions, gestures, tones of voice, emotions, and intentions in oneself or others
- Engaging in repetitive body movements (rocking, flapping, spinning, etc.) or ritualistic actions (e.g., lining up objects)
- Needing an unvarying daily routine
- Narrow or extreme interests in specific topics
- Intense responses to sensory stimulation (light, sound, smell, touch, texture)²

The severity of a person’s autism is based on their degree of social communication impairment and restricted, repetitive patterns of behavior.³ A person may be diagnosed with level 1 autism (individual requires support), level 2 autism (individual requires substantial support), or level 3 autism (individual requires very substantial support). The level of severity may change throughout a person’s lifetime.

Individuals with autism may have a greater capacity for concrete thinking, observation, and attention to detail than the general population. They can be unparalleled at focusing their energy and concentration on something that inspires them. Some individuals with autism have extraordinary talents in mathematics, music, and art.

Current estimates by the CDC suggest that 1 in every 36 children in the U.S. has autism spectrum disorder.⁴ The cause of autism is not yet fully understood, but it is thought to be the result of a combination of factors.⁵ Autism occurs in all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups, and is nearly four times more common among boys than among girls.⁶ The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends children be screened at 18, 24, and 30 months to identify autism as early as possible.⁷ It can be reliably diagnosed by the age of 2.⁸

Children with autism are also more likely than the general population to experience certain medical conditions, such as gastrointestinal issues, feeding disorders, epilepsy, sleep problems, ADHD, and mental health issues, among others.⁹ For more information on these topics, visit: www.autismspeaks.org/medical-conditions-associated-autism.

Autism Speaks has developed 100 Day Kits for families of children who have recently received a diagnosis of autism. These kits include detailed information and tools to guide you through building your child's network of support. You can download a copy of the guide in English or Spanish at the following links:

100 Day Kit for Young Children:
www.autismspeaks.org/tool-kit/100-day-kit-young-children

100 Day Kit for School-Age Children:

www.autismspeaks.org/tool-kit/100-day-kit-school-age-children

Manual de 100 días para familias con niños pequeños recién diagnosticados de autismo:

www.autismspeaks.org/sites/default/files/toolkit-pdf/manual-de-los-100-dias.pdf



4. Autism Treatment Overview

There is no “cure” for autism. The goal of current treatments for individuals with autism is to address the symptoms they experience to help improve daily functioning and quality of life.¹⁰ For example, speech-language therapists and occupational therapists might help a child who is nonverbal learn to use an augmentative alternative communication (AAC) system to help them to effectively communicate with others.

As a spectrum disorder, autism is highly variable and unique to each individual. Research shows that while some treatments may be helpful to some individuals, there is no single treatment that has been scientifically proven to successfully treat all symptoms of autism in all individuals.^{11,12} What works best for your child’s needs and your family may differ from what is effective for another child with autism.

A recent study notes that “autistic symptoms and language deficits occur at an early age and affect other areas such as cognitive, social-emotional, speech and language, and motor skill development.”¹³ Research supports that early diagnosis of autism and early intervention (which is defined as treatment by or before the age of 5) “are more likely to produce major long-term positive effects on symptoms and later skills.”¹⁴

At the time of this publication, Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), a behavioral therapy, and developmental therapies (occupational, physical, speech-language) are the main evidence-based treatments for symptoms of autism in children

ages 2 – 8 that are available in Sedgwick County. Other evidence-based therapies such as Early Start Denver Model, DIRFloortime®, and TEACCH were not locally available at the time that research was conducted for this guide.

According to the CDC:

- “Behavioral treatment focuses on changing behaviors by understanding what happens before and after the behavior.
 - Examples include Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), Early Start Denver Model, and Pivotal Response Treatment, among others.
- Developmental approaches focus on improving specific developmental skills, such as language skills or physical skills, or a broader range of interconnected developmental abilities.”¹⁵
 - Examples include occupational, physical, speech language, and feeding therapy.

For more information on therapies and interventions, including those which are not listed in this guide, visit:

- www.autismspeaks.org/autism-therapies-support
- autismsociety.org/resources/intervention-and-therapies/
- www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/autism/conditioninfo/treatments

Behavioral Therapy: ABA Therapy

Applied Behavior Analysis is a science that is used to understand the motivation for different behaviors. In the treatment of autism, therapeutic techniques that are based on Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) are used to break complex tasks down into several smaller tasks and the

individual skills underlying them. A child works one-on-one with a certified Behavior Technician under the guidance of a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst to master skills and tasks that help to improve their functioning.

Although classical ABA meant sitting at a table until a single task was completed, modern ABA for children typically uses play as the most natural and effective approach to working on skills and tasks. Each small element that is mastered can then be built upon to accomplish larger tasks and create social and behavioral skills that help a child to succeed in new situations and environments.

A child's treatment goals in ABA therapy might include developing skills in the areas of communication and language, social skills, self-care, play and leisure, motor skills, and learning skills.¹⁶ ABA is an intensive therapy that may include 10 – 40 hours of treatment each week.¹⁷

Autism Speaks provides a list of questions for parents to ask treatment providers to better understand how different ABA providers work and decide which therapy or therapist is right for your child. This list includes how to ask about their credentials and experience; how therapy is delivered; how your child's therapy goals and progress will be developed, tracked, and measured; and your involvement as a parent.

You can find these questions and more information on ABA here: www.autismspeaks.org/blog/questions-ask-aba-therapist.

Early and Intensive Behavioral Intervention (EIBI) is an evidence-based intervention for pre-school age children that

applies principles from ABA. Like ABA, EIBI breaks tasks down into smaller elements to help children gradually master the building blocks of new skills and behaviors.

Developmental Therapies

Developmental therapies focus on improving cognitive, social communication, sensory, and motor skills in early childhood. Children typically develop predictable skills at certain ages, which in turn help new skills to emerge. When a delay occurs in one area, it can affect the child's development in another. Occupational, physical, speech-language, and feeding therapies focus on different aspects of development to help children reach their greatest potential. A therapist working with a child in one area can help to spot needs for other therapies.

Occupational therapy helps individuals with autism spectrum disorder perform everyday tasks by finding ways to work within and make the most of their needs, abilities, and interests.¹⁸

Physical therapy includes activities and exercises that build motor skills and improve strength, posture, and balance.¹⁹

Speech-language therapy, professionally known as speech-language pathology, can help to improve communication and social skills and behaviors.²⁰ Some speech-language pathologists also have training to address feeding and swallowing issues.

Feeding therapy can help to identify and address the sources of a child's problems with eating. Children with autism are five times more likely than the general population

to experience problems with eating.²¹ Parents may find that their child refuses to eat anything but certain textures, or that they will only eat very specific foods for every meal. Feeding issues can be complex and may result from a number of factors that children with autism are more likely to experience, including sensory and gastrointestinal issues.

Autism Speaks' "Exploring Feeding Behavior in Autism" toolkit provides more information on this topic in English and in Spanish. Download the guide here: www.autismspeaks.org/tool-kit/exploring-feeding-behavior-autism

Many developmental therapy providers in Sedgwick County offer more than one of these services.

It is not uncommon for ABA and developmental therapy providers to have waitlists, or for families to sign up for multiple waitlists. In fact, families are encouraged to get on waitlists for the services your child needs as soon as those needs are determined. If your child begins to receive services from a provider after you signed up for multiple waitlists, please be courteous and let the other providers know that you no longer need to be on their waitlist.



5. ABA Therapy Providers

For a description of ABA Therapy, refer to pg. 13, Autism Treatment Overview. Providers are listed alphabetically by name.

ABA and Mental Health Services, LLC, a division of Kansas Behavioral Health

2024 N. Woodlawn St., Ste. 402, Wichita, KS 67208
(316) 201-6424 | info@kansasbh.com
www.kansasbh.com

ABA and Mental Health Services shares a phone number, email, and website with Kansas Behavioral Health but has a separate office. ABA and Mental Health Services provides ABA for children and youth ages 2 – 13 who live within 30 minutes of central Wichita. ABA treatment is delivered in the home or in another natural environment. Parent training is also provided for ABA clients. Clients may need to have a diagnosis report, recent Well Child check, and psychological testing in place for insurance authorization to receive services. There is a waitlist for services. Services available in English.

Blooming Horizons

2400 S. Greenwich, Wichita, KS 67210
(917) 801-7015 | info@bloominghorizons.com
www.bloominghorizons.com

Blooming Horizons offers in-center and in-home ABA for children and teens ages 2 – 18, including after school sessions. Blooming Horizons also provides social skills groups for children in ABA and parent support groups. Parents with a diagnosis should complete the Request ABA form at www.bloominghorizons.com/connect. There is no waitlist. Services available in English, Spanish, Turkish, and French.

Heartspring

8700 E. 29th St. N., Wichita, KS 67226

(316) 634-8710 | info@heartspring.org

www.heartspring.org/outpatient/applied_behavior_analysis

Heartspring's Outpatient Clinic offers individualized ABA treatment to children up to 18 years old. This program can serve a child who has a diagnosis of ASD with scores from the Autism Spectrum Rating Scales (ASRS). Services are individualized for each child. Intensive one-on-one ABA is available for children ages 18 months – 13 years old. Social skills group ABA is available for ages 8 – 18 years old. Heartspring also embeds individual or group parent collaboration sessions into ABA therapy. Wait times are variable for each type of therapy.

Once you have initiated the intake process, your physician can send referrals directly to Heartspring or request appointments on your behalf. Contact the Outpatient Services team at the phone number above to request ABA Therapy. Heartspring accepts most major insurances, including Blue Cross Blue Shield, Aetna, and United Healthcare. Financial assistance is available to qualifying families on a sliding-scale fee. Spanish interpretation services available.

Little Stars Therapy Services

1319 W. May St., Wichita, KS 67213

(316) 364-8767 | littlestarstherapyks@gmail.com

www.littlestarstherapyks.com

Little Stars Therapy Services offers ABA for children ages 2 – 18 and parent consultation for each family receiving services. These services are provided in home, at the clinic, and in the community, as needed. To be placed on the waitlist, be prepared with a copy of the child's diagnostic report, insurance card, and your physician's referral.

New Hope Therapy Services

659 N. Market, Wichita, KS 67214

(316) 247-2505 (call/text)

admin@newhopetherapyservices.com

www.newhopetherapyservices.com

Provides Early Intensive Behavioral Intervention (EIBI) for children ages 2 – 5 and school-age ABA for ages 5 – 13. EIBI and ABA can be provided in the child’s home or in the clinic. Newly Diagnosed Services and Family Guidance Services for parents or caregivers of children and youth up to age 21. Family Guidance Services include weekly meetings to educate and empower parents and caregivers through parent training curricula and Behavioral Skills Training. Parents with questions about ABA, what to look for in a provider, and how to effectively advocate for their child are encouraged to contact New Hope Therapy Services for support even if their child is not receiving New Hope’s services. There is a waitlist for services at this time. Call for more information or to join the waitlist. Services available in English and Spanish.

Summit Behavioral Services

(816) 853-0946

www.summitaba.com/wichita

Or send a message at:

www.summitaba.com/fieldservices

Summit Behavioral Services offers in-home ABA to individuals ages 2 and up who are within 30 miles of Wichita. Summit’s ABA therapy is driven by compassionate care that focuses on each child’s needs and parent input. Parent Consultation is available and includes a parent training curriculum delivered in one-on-one sessions with the child’s provider, regular check-ins, and practice applying new skills in the home. A diagnosis is required for clients who will bill insurance. Private pay clients do not need a diagnosis but must qualify for services through initial assessment. Telehealth may be an

option for certain insurance plans. There is no waitlist at this time. Call for more information. Services available in English.

NOTES:



6. Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy

For a description of the difference between occupational and physical therapies, refer to pg. 13, Autism Treatment Overview. Many developmental therapy providers in Sedgwick County offer more than one type of service. Providers are listed alphabetically along with which services they offer.

Ascension Via Christi Therapy Center

929 St. Francis St., Physical Therapy Clinic,
Wichita, KS 67214
(316) 268-8200

healthcare.ascension.org/locations/kansas/kswic/wichita-ascension-via-christi-therapy-center-on-st-francis

Offer occupational, physical, and speech therapy for individuals of all ages. There may be a waitlist for some services.

Erin Is Hope Foundation

4921 E. 21st St., Wichita, KS 67208
(316) 681-3204 | erinishope@yahoo.com
www.erinishopefoundation.org

Offer pediatric occupational and physical therapy to children and youth ages birth – 21, as well as speech-language and feeding therapy. Occupational and physical therapy are provided at the outpatient clinic. Erin Is Hope does not contract with Medicaid at this time. There is a waitlist for services. A referral from a physician may be needed for most insurance providers. Services available in English.

Heartspring

8700 E. 29th St. N., Wichita, KS 67226

(316) 634-8710 | info@heartspring.org

www.heartspring.org/outpatient/pediatric_therapies

Heartspring's Outpatient Clinic offers occupational and physical therapy for children of all ages and abilities. Occupational therapists specialize in developmental areas such as daily living and play skills, feeding, fine motor and handwriting, visual motor development, and sensory processing. Physical therapists specialize in targeting and improving mobility, strength, range of motion, endurance, balance, coordination, and gross motor development.

Once you have initiated the intake process, your physician can send referrals directly to Heartspring or request appointments on your behalf. Contact the Outpatient Services team at the phone number above to request Occupational or Physical Therapy. Heartspring accepts most major insurances, including Blue Cross Blue Shield, Aetna, and United Healthcare. Financial assistance is available to qualifying families on a sliding-scale fee. Services available in English and Spanish.

Move Pediatric Therapy

5228 W. Central Ave., Wichita, KS 67212

(316) 833-9530 | therapy@movepediatrictherapy.com

www.movepediatrictherapy.com/services.html

Offer pediatric occupational and physical therapy to children from infancy through childhood. Move Pediatric Therapy staff have experience with sensory processing and neurological disorders. Assistance is available to parents to help meet the child's specific needs, including parent education and home exercise programs.

Move2Play Pediatric Physical Therapy

9229 E. 37th St. N., Ste. 201, Wichita, KS 67226
(316) 655-3403

www.move2playphysicaltherapy.com

Move2Play offers outpatient pediatric occupational, physical, speech, feeding and swallowing therapy for individuals from birth – 21. Move2Play also performs adaptive equipment trials and evaluations in addition to wheelchair/seating clinic in conjunction with Children’s Mercy Hospital and Numotion. You can get started by completing patient registration forms online at our website.

Pediatric Therapy Center of Wichita

220 S. Hillside St., Ste. B, Wichita, KS 67211
(316) 260-5502 | info@ptcwichita.com

www.ptcwichita.com

Offer sensory-based feeding, occupational, and physical therapy to children from birth to teen years. There is a waitlist for services but all efforts are made to get children in quickly.

Sprout Therapy

3500 N. Rock Rd. Bldg. 2200, Ste. 101, Wichita, KS 67226
(316) 440-3316 | info@sprouttherapy.com

www.sprouttherapy.com

Offer occupational therapy for children and youth ages birth – 21. Staff are also trained in rhythmic movement training, fine motor, self-care, and emotional regulation. Evaluations may be scheduled when there are openings for new clients. There is a waitlist for services at this time. Services available in English.

TheraPlay Spot

423 N. McLean Blvd., Wichita, KS 67203
(316) 618-1252 | itsfun@theraplayspot.com
www.theraplayspot.com

Offer pediatric occupational, physical, speech, and feeding therapy to children from birth – 18. TheraPlay Spot can assist families with getting Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) devices when needed. There is a waitlist for services.

Wesley Pediatric Rehabilitation

3243 E. Murdock, Ste. 601, Wichita, KS 67214
(316) 962-8025

www.wesleymc.com/specialties/pediatric-rehabilitation/

Provide pediatric occupational, physical, speech-language, and feeding therapy for children from infancy through childhood. Children must be under the age of 3 to participate in speech-language therapy. Referrals may be made to other specialists as new needs are identified. Bilingual Services available as needed.



7. Speech-Language Therapy and Feeding Therapy

For a description of speech-language and feeding therapy, refer to pg. 13, Autism Treatment Overview. Providers are listed alphabetically by name.

Ascension Via Christi Therapy Center

929 St. Francis St., Physical Therapy Clinic,
Wichita, KS 67214
(316) 268-8200

healthcare.ascension.org/locations/kansas/kswic/wichita-ascension-via-christi-therapy-center-on-st-francis

Offer speech, occupational, and physical therapy for individuals of all ages. There may be a waitlist for some services.

Bilingual Speech Therapy of Kansas LLC

1999 N. Amidon, Ste. 110, Wichita, KS 67203
(316) 768-6718 | bstmanager@bstkansas.com
www.bstkansas.com

Pediatric speech-language clinic with bilingual services in English and Spanish. Offer speech-language and feeding therapy for children ages 1 – 18. There is no waitlist for therapy but there may be a waitlist for evaluations. Can serve patients who speak other languages if an interpreter (family, friend, or made available by the individual's insurance) can accompany them.

Erin Is Hope Foundation

4921 E. 21st St., Wichita, KS 67208
(316) 681-3204 | erinishope@yahoo.com
www.erinishopefoundation.org

Offer pediatric speech-language and feeding therapy to children and youth ages birth – 21, as well as occupational and physical therapy. Speech-language and feeding therapy are provided at their outpatient clinic. Erin Is Hope does not contract with Medicaid at this time. There is a waitlist for services. A referral from a physician may be needed for most insurance providers. Services available in English.

Every Child's Voice

2247 W. Caroline St., Wichita, KS 67203
(316) 519-1920 | klpterp@hotmail.com
www.everychildsvocellc.com

Every Child's Voice provides speech, language, feeding, auditory processing, and Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) training for individuals of all ages. Sessions are provided in the clinic with an observation room and/or in the Sensory Garden where parents are present. The observation room is provided for parents to observe their child's session, facilitating the carryover of strategies and techniques necessary to achieve progress. Sessions incorporate elements of the outdoor Sensory Garden to encourage and facilitate the development of each child's voice, whether spoken, signed, or through the use of AAC. Signing Exact English (SEE) is incorporated into the therapy sessions to provide visual and tactile support, maintenance of attention and focus, and to enhance the development of foundational English skills.

Clients receive an individualized treatment plan which may include social pragmatic language goals for children with Autism. Social pragmatic language groups are provided for children and youth ages 10 years and older. Every Child's Voice has two speech-language pathologists who were previously sign language interpreters. Sign language will continue to be a service provided at our clinic.

Heartspring

8700 E. 29th St. N., Wichita, KS 67226

(316) 634-8710 | info@heartspring.org

www.heartspring.org/outpatient/pediatric_therapies

Heartspring's Outpatient Clinic offers speech and feeding therapy for children of all ages. Speech-language therapists help children develop skills in oral motor and feeding, speech sounds, stuttering and fluency, augmentative communication, auditory aural rehab, and receptive and expressive language. This program also offers bilingual Spanish therapy. In Feeding Therapy, our therapists address unique mealtime struggles like food textures, trying new foods, integrating food groups, oral motor skills related to eating, and sensory regulation during mealtimes.

Once you have initiated the intake process, your physician can send referrals directly to Heartspring or request appointments on your behalf. Contact the Outpatient Services team at the phone number above to request Speech or Feeding Therapy. Heartspring accepts most major insurances, including Blue Cross Blue Shield, Aetna, and United Healthcare. Financial assistance is available to qualifying families on a sliding-scale fee. Wait times are variable for each type of therapy. Services available in English and Spanish.

Move2Play Pediatric Physical Therapy

9229 E. 37th St. N., Ste. 201, Wichita, KS 67226

(316) 655-3403

www.move2playphysicaltherapy.com

Move2Play offers outpatient pediatric occupational, physical, speech, feeding and swallowing therapy for individuals from birth – 21. Move2Play also performs adaptive equipment trials and evaluations in addition to wheelchair/seating clinic in conjunction with Children's Mercy Hospital and Numotion. You can get started by completing patient registration forms on our website.

Pediatric Therapy Center of Wichita

220 S. Hillside St., Ste. B, Wichita, KS 67211
(316) 260-5502 | info@ptcwichita.com
www.ptcwichita.com

Offers sensory-based feeding, occupational, and physical therapy to children from birth to teen years. There is a waitlist for services but all efforts are made to get children in quickly.

Small Talk Pediatric Speech Therapy

Clifton Square, 3700 E. Douglas Ave., Ste. 45,
Wichita, KS 67208
(316) 210-5907 | csmith@smalltalkwichita.com
www.smalltalkwichita.com

Small Talk offers speech-language feeding therapy to children ages birth – 4. There is no waitlist for services.

TheraPlay Spot

423 N. McLean Blvd., Wichita, KS 67203
(316) 618-1252 | itsfun@theraplayspot.com
www.theraplayspot.com

TheraPlay Spot specializes in helping children with sensory processing disorders. Offer pediatric speech-language, feeding, occupational, and physical therapy to children from birth – 18. TheraPlay Spot can assist families with getting Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) devices when needed. There is a waitlist for services.

Wesley Pediatric Rehabilitation

3243 E. Murdock, Ste. 601, Wichita, KS 67214
(316) 962-8025

www.wesleymc.com/specialties/pediatric-rehabilitation/

Provide pediatric speech-language, feeding, occupational, and physical therapy. Children must be under the age of 3 to participate in speech-language therapy. There is no age limit for feeding therapy. Referrals may be made to other specialists as new needs are identified. Bilingual services available as needed.

WSU Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic

WSU Hughes Metropolitan Complex
5015 E. 29th St. N. (Entrance T), Wichita, KS 67220
(316) 978-3289 | slhclinic@wichita.edu

www.wichita.edu/academics/health_professions/slhclinic

The Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic provides services to individuals of any age who are experiencing difficulties with communication, hearing, swallowing, and spoken and written language impairments. In addition to speech-language and hearing therapies and pediatric feeding groups, the clinic offers area-specific programs and support groups that meet at the clinic for aphasia, autism, fluency, feeding, and more. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to contact the Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic to discuss their concerns.

NOTES:

8. Dental

Children with autism and other special health care needs are at greater risk of having oral health problems than the general population.²² Sensory issues with the texture, taste, or smell of toothpaste, or the feel of the toothbrush, can make it difficult to practice good oral hygiene at home. They might also have more anxiety around procedures cause sensory overstimulation. Bright lights, noisy equipment, being restricted from moving, and repeated touching of the face or mouth can cause extreme discomfort that makes it difficult to sit through an appointment.

The providers below have experience working with children who are orally defensive or who need accommodation for these services. Providers are listed alphabetically by name.

Download Autism Speaks' Toolkit for Successful Dental Visits for Children with Autism here: www.autismspeaks.org/toolkit/dentist-for-kids-with-autism.

Adventure Dental & Vision- West

1901 W. 21st St., Wichita, KS 67203

(316) 832-7978

kidsdentalvisioncare.com/kansas/adventure-ks/wichita/wichita-w-21st-st

Have experience serving children who are orally defensive and/or nonverbal. Parents can stay with their child during the exam. Sedation is offered in the clinic or may refer to another office as needed. Services available in English and Spanish. Interpretation services available as needed.

Adventure Dental & Vision- East

980 S. Oliver Ave., Wichita, KS 67218
(316) 910-4993

kidsdentalvisioncare.com/kansas/adventure-ks/wichita/wichita-s-oliver-st

Have experience serving children who are orally defensive and/or nonverbal. Parents can stay with their child during the exam. Sedation is offered in the clinic or may refer to another office as needed. Services available in English and Spanish. Interpretation services available as needed.

Children's Dental Professionals

6943 W. 37th St. N., Wichita, KS 67205
(316) 613-2077 | office@jumpreachgrowsmile.com
www.jumpreachgrowsmile.com

College Hill Pediatric Dentistry

3305 E. Douglas Ave., Ste. 101, Wichita, KS 67218
(316) 223-4455

www.collegehillpediatricdentistry.com

Have experience serving children who are orally defensive and/or nonverbal. Can serve children up to age 12. Parents can stay with their child during the exam. Sedation is available for treatment only; it is not used for exams. Services available in English and Spanish.

NOTES:

Frankenberry, Johnson & Long

3101 N. Cypress Dr., Wichita, KS 67226

(316) 634-0990

www.wichitadentists.com

Have a significant amount of experience serving children with autism as well as children who are orally defensive and/or nonverbal. Parents can stay with their child during the exam. Anesthesia and sedation services available for exams and/or treatment. Services available in English and Spanish.

ICTeeth- Northeast

2143 Collective Ln., Ste. B, Wichita, KS 67206

(316) 453-4910

www.icteeth.com

Have experience serving children who are orally defensive and/or nonverbal. Parents can be with their child during the exam. Sedation is offered in the clinic if needed. Services available in English and Spanish.

ICTeeth- Smile Safari

2701 N. Rock Rd., Ste. 400, Derby, KS 67037

(316) 453-4910

www.icteeth.com/smile-safari

Have experience serving children who are orally defensive and/or nonverbal. Parents can be with their child during the exam. Sedation is offered in the clinic if needed. Services available in English and Spanish.



ICTeeth- West

13610 W. Maple St., Wichita, KS 67235
(316) 453-4910
www.icteeth.com

Have experience serving children who are orally defensive and/or nonverbal. Parents can be with their child during the exam. Sedation is offered in the clinic if needed. Services available in English and Spanish.

Kidspaced Pediatric Dentistry

430 N. Woodlawn, Wichita, KS 67208
(316) 684-2100
www.kidspacedentistry.com

Have experience serving children who are orally defensive and/or nonverbal. Parents can stay with their child during the exam. Sedation not provided at this clinic. Services available in English and Spanish.

Rio Dental

7207 E. 21st St. N., Wichita, KS 67206
(316) 681-2688 | info@theriodental.com
www.theriodental.com

Have experience serving children who are orally defensive and/or nonverbal. Parents can stay with their child during the exam. Sedation not offered. Services available in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

NOTES:

Smile Craft Family Dentistry

5315 E. 21st St. N., Wichita, KS 67208

(316) 768-6408

www.smilecraftwichita.com

Have experience serving children who are orally defensive and/or nonverbal. Parents can stay with their child during the exam. Referral can be made to another clinic if sedation is needed. Services available in English and Spanish.

Tiny Teeth

3933 N. Maize Rd., Ste. 200, Wichita, KS 67101

(316) 202-9629 | info@tinyteethwichita.com

www.tinyteethwichita.com

Have experience serving children who are orally defensive and/or nonverbal. Can take new patients of any age up to age 10. Parents can stay with their child during the exam. Sedation may be an option for treatment only; it is not used for exams or cleaning. Services available in English and Spanish.

Wichita Pediatric Dentistry

1230 N. Broadmoor Ave. Ste. 400, Wichita, KS 67206

(316) 630-0090 | drmike@driseman.com

www.driseman.com

Have experience serving children who are orally defensive and/or nonverbal. Parents can stay with their child during the exam. Have options for children who cannot tolerate dental exams or treatment, including sedation.

9. Vision

Eye exams can cause anxiety and distress for children with autism for many reasons, including being confronted with unfamiliar equipment and an exam process that can cause sensory overstimulation.

The providers below have experience working with children who have disabilities or who need accommodation for vision screenings and services. Providers are listed alphabetically by name.

Adventure Dental & Vision- West

1901 W. 21st St., Wichita, KS 67203

(316) 832-7978

kidsdentalvisioncare.com/kansas/adventure-ks/wichita/wichita-w-21st-st

Offer optometry services for individuals from 6 months through adulthood. Have experience serving children who are nonverbal or who have autism. Parents can stay with their child during the eye exam. Accommodations can be made, including completing an exam over the course of multiple appointments. Services available in English and Spanish. Interpretation and video interpretation services available for other languages.



Adventure Dental & Vision- East

980 S. Oliver Ave., Wichita, KS 67218

(316) 910-4993

kidsdentalvisioncare.com/kansas/adventure-ks/wichita/wichita-s-oliver-st

Offer optometry services for individuals from 6 months through adulthood. Have experience serving children who are nonverbal or who have autism. Parents can stay with their child during the eye exam. Accommodations can be made, including completing an exam over the course of multiple appointments. Services available in English and Spanish. Interpretation and video interpretation services available for other languages.

Child & Family Eyecare

746 N. Maize Rd., Ste. 100, Wichita, KS 67212

(316) 721-8877

www.eyecarewichita.com

Child & Family Eyecare offers optometry services for individuals of all ages. Drs. Sparacino and Pirotte have experience serving children of all abilities, including those who are nonverbal or who have autism. Parents are encouraged to accompany children during eye exams. Accommodations can be made as needed to make evaluations more comfortable for clients. Services available in English and Spanish.

NOTES:

Grene Vision Group- Webb Road

1851 N. Webb Rd., Wichita, KS 67206
(316) 636-2010

www.grenewisiongroup.com/locations/wichita-webb-road

Offer optometry services for individuals of all ages. Dr. Post has experience serving children who are nonverbal or who have autism. Parents can stay with their child during eye exams. Accommodations are available for children who are not able to tolerate an eye exam. Services available in English and Spanish. Interpretation services available for other languages.

Grene Vision Group- Maize Road

1277 N. Maize Rd., Wichita, KS 67212
(316) 722-8883

www.grenewisiongroup.com/locations/wichita-maize-road

Offer optometry services for individuals of all ages. Dr. Christie Rose has experience serving children who are nonverbal or who have autism. Parents can stay with their child during eye exams. Accommodations are available for children who are not able to tolerate an eye exam. Services available in English and Spanish. Interpretation services available for other languages.

Grene Vision Group- Ridge Road

3910 N. Ridge Rd., Wichita, KS 67205
(316) 721-2701

www.grenewisiongroup.com/locations/wichita-ridge-road

Offer optometry services for individuals of all ages. Drs. Misha Anderson, Christopher Means, and Jennifer Taylor have experience serving children who are nonverbal or who have autism. Dr. Means serves children ages 3 and older. Parents can stay with their child during eye exams. Accommodations are available for children who are not able to tolerate an eye exam. Services available in English and Spanish. Interpretation services available for other languages.

10. Haircuts

We all know a child who hates having their hair brushed or who cringes every time the cape and clippers come out. For children with autism, haircuts can be the cause of extreme distress and discomfort. If your child has struggled with haircuts in the past, working together with a trusted barber or stylist can help make the process easier for your child. If you have a preferred barbershop or salon, you can call in advance to ask if there are any staff who have experience working with children with disabilities or sensory needs and describe what your child needs to have a successful haircut.

For example, you might ask for extra time at the appointment to help your child transition from one step to the next. This might include arriving before the appointment to let them adjust to the salon, meet the stylist, ask questions about the tools they will use during the appointment, and describe what will happen during the haircut.

Autism Speaks' haircutting toolkit has advice for stylists and parents alike that can support your child's visit. Download the guide here: www.autismspeaks.org/tool-kit/haircutting-training-guide.

The salons and stylists below have experience working with children with disabilities. Providers are listed alphabetically by name.

Pigtails & Crewcuts- East

2431 N. Greenwich Rd., Ste 103, Wichita, KS 67226
(316) 847-8888

wichitaeast@pigtailsandcrewcuts.com

www.book.pigtailsandcrewcuts.com

Pigtails and Crewcuts' trained staff are experienced at serving children and youth with special needs and their loved ones, no matter what their age. The salon has a play area, toys, video games, and other accommodations to make the experience more enjoyable for children who have sensory processing needs. For children who particularly dislike haircuts, booking midday appointments during the week can provide a quieter and less stimulating environment. Parents of children who need accommodation are advised to call the salon to discuss how Pigtails & Crewcuts can best accommodate your child to provide an enjoyable haircut experience. Special appointments are available, as needed, on a case-by-case basis. Services provided in English. Can accommodate clients who speak other languages via translation apps.

Pigtails & Crewcuts- West

2441 N. Maize Rd., Ste. 1505, Wichita, KS 67205
(316) 729-7777

wichitawest@pigtailsandcrewcuts.com

book.pigtailsandcrewcuts.com/shop_home/104183

See description for Pigtails & Crewcuts East.

Services provided in English and Spanish. Can accommodate clients who speak other languages via translation apps.

NOTES:

Special Clips at A1 Barbershop

2804 E. Central Ave., Wichita, KS 67214
(316) 249-2446 | special.clips@yahoo.com
booksy.com/en-us/948484_special-clips_barber-shop_20639_wichita

Special Clips is an exclusive barbering service for individuals with autism, special needs, and disabilities offered at A1 Barbershop on Sundays. Special Clips provides a comfortable and accommodating grooming experience tailored to clients' specific needs, and which ensures that they feel safe and respected. Special Clips offers both in-shop services and house calls, making it convenient for clients to receive haircuts and grooming in their homes or day programs. Quiet music, movies, toys, and other accommodations are included. Hours, pricing, and booking are available online. Contact Special Clips' owner & barber, Jaraya Owens, for more information.

Sensory Salon

512 N. Exposition St., Ste. D6, Wichita, KS 67203
(Located inside Theraplay Spot)
(316) 203-2777 | kassy@sensorysalonict.com
www.sensorysalonict.com

Sensory Salon ICT's hair cutting services are designed for individuals with disabilities, sensory sensitivities, or who cannot tolerate a traditional salon setting. Sessions are provided one-on-one in a suite customized to the client's preference. Accommodations include (but are not limited to): sensory and fidget toys, weighted lap pads, dimmed lights, water spray bottle alternative, visual and social stories to guide the client through their appointment, and breaks if they are overwhelmed. More information, hours, and booking available online.

11. Education

Pre-k Providers

Early childhood education helps to develop social-emotional skills and behaviors to prepare children for kindergarten. Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) provides free special education and related services to eligible school-age children (ages 3 and up). These programs are available through your local school district. Children must be evaluated for eligibility to participate in early childhood special education services. Contact the district's Special Education department to find out about eligibility for early childhood education programs and how to apply. Those who do not qualify for special education may still qualify for general early childhood education.

USD 259 Early Childhood Special Education Services

(316) 866-8043 | sbenoit@usd259.org

Pre-K: www.usd259.org/Page/4172

Spec. Ed.: www.usd259.org/site/Default.aspx?PageID=1972

Offered at multiple schools, this program serves qualifying children from ages 3 – 5, who have not yet turned 5 by August 31st of the current school year. While a diagnosis can be helpful, special education services are determined based on the child's demonstrated need. If a child has not already been referred by Part C Infant/Toddler services, parents should schedule a developmental screening with Screen for Success to determine if they are qualified for referral to special education services. Parents who would like to start the child in school first and begin the IEP process later can enroll their child for General Education. For questions about the continuum of services, schedules, and classroom information, call or email Shannon Benoit.

USD 260 Derby Schools Special Services Early Childhood Special Education

1550 E. Walnut Grove Rd., Derby, KS 67037

(316) 788-8400 | specialservices@usd260.com

www.derbyschools.com/academics/early-childhood/special-education

Children may be referred to USD 260's Early Childhood Special Education Services from the age of 2 years and 9 months until kindergarten entry. Children can be referred by either an early childhood screening (Project KIDS in Derby, Screen for Success in Wichita), a Part C Infant/Toddler Services program, or an outpatient services provider. A comprehensive evaluation will then be conducted by a multidisciplinary team to determine eligibility for the program. Please contact the Special Services office with questions.

USD 262 Valley Center Public Schools Ark Valley Special Education Cooperative

143 S. Meridian, Valley Center, KS 67147

(316) 755-7170

www.usd262.net/enrollment/pre-k-information

Children must be 3 or 4 years old on or before August 31st of the current year and meet at least one at-risk criteria OR have a current Individual Education Plan (IEP) to be eligible for the program. Parents of children without an IEP should use the site to complete a Preschool Interest Form and a developmental screening for their child. Completed screenings are submitted to USD 262 as one potential qualification for the preschool program. Age-eligible children with an IEP are automatically accepted into the preschool program. Call the Ark Valley Special Education Cooperative with questions regarding your child's early childhood special education services.

USD 263 Munson Elementary School

1007 Westview Dr., Mulvane, KS 67110
(316) 777-0151 | mmason@usd263.org

www.usd263.com/vnews/display.v/SEC/Munson%20Primary

USD 263 provides early childhood special education and pre-k services for children ages 3 – 5 (who are not yet eligible for kindergarten) at Munson Elementary School. Eligibility for services is determined through screening and evaluation. To make an appointment for a developmental screening for a child ages birth – 5 living in Mulvane School District, call (316) 777-01510 ext. 1124 or email Mickie Mason at the listed address. Upcoming developmental screenings can be found here: www.usd263.com/vnews/display.v/ART/5b512246cd33a.

USD 265 Goddard Special Education Department Early Childhood Special Education

201 S. Main St., Goddard, KS 67052
(316) 794-4005 | ccarter1@goddardusd.com

www.goddardusd.com/page/goddard-special-education-cooperative

Goddard's Early Childhood Special Education program serves children ages 3 – 5 who qualify for special education services, and the Pre-K program serves at-risk children ages 3 – 5. USD 265 Early Learning programs are open to all USD 265 families regardless of assigned base school as determined by home address. To determine if your child is eligible for services, parents should call the Goddard Special Education Department at the number above to schedule a developmental screening. For other questions, email Christy Carter at the address listed above.

USD 266 Maize Early Childhood Center

9405 W. 37th St. N., Wichita, KS 67205
(316) 722-3105 | brightstart@usd266.com
www.usd266.com/Page/5179

Early childhood special education services are available for children ages 3 – 5 (who are not yet eligible for kindergarten) who meet eligibility requirements. Special education services may include appointments for speech, occupational, or physical therapy; community-based services; and early childhood special education classrooms. Eligibility for services is determined through screening and evaluation. To make an appointment for a developmental screening for a child ages birth – 5 living in Maize or Renwick School District, call Bright Start at (316) 722-3105 or email brightstart@usd266.com.

Sedgwick County USD Special Education Offices for Children ages 5 and Older

For school-age children, contact your school district's student support or special education services team to discuss next steps to support your child's learning. Parents may request an evaluation for special education or related services at any time. Parents may request a 504 evaluation for children who need accommodations or modifications but who do not require specially designed instruction or curriculum.

USD 259 Student Support Services

Alvin E. Morris Administrative Center
903 S. Edgemoor, Wichita, KS 67218
(316) 973-4479 | info@usd259.net
www.usd259.org/studentsupport

USD 260 Derby Schools Special Services

1550 E. Walnut Grove Rd., Derby, KS 67037
(316) 788-8400 | information@usd260.com
www.derbyschools.com/district/special-services.

USD 262 Ark Valley Special Education Cooperative

143 S. Meridian, Valley Center, KS 67147
(316) 755-7170 | andrea.saffle@usd262.net
www.usd262.net/departments/special-education-services.

USD 263 Mulvane Autism Interdisciplinary Team

628 E. Mulvane St., Mulvane, KS 67110
(316) 777-1102 | clucas@usd263.org
[www.usd263.com/vnews/display.v/SEC/Special%20
Education](http://www.usd263.com/vnews/display.v/SEC/Special%20Education)

The USD 263 Autism Interdisciplinary Team (AIT) can provide consultation, intervention ideas, screenings, or special education evaluation for students that may or may not have a diagnosis from an outside agency. General education students are referred through the general education intervention team. Special education students are referred by the IEP case manager following consultation with the IEP team. Contact Casey Lucas for additional information.

USD 265 Goddard Special Services Cooperative

201 S. Main St., Goddard, KS 67052
(316) 794-4000
[www.goddardusd.com/page/goddard-special-education-
cooperative](http://www.goddardusd.com/page/goddard-special-education-cooperative)

USD 266 Maize School District

905 W. Academy, Maize, KS 67101
(316) 350-2088 | specialeducation@usd266.com
www.usd266.com/Page/5178

12. Parent Training & Support

Local providers who specialize in training and support for parents of children with autism and other disabilities are listed alphabetically. These resources may be online or in-person.

Autism Internet Modules

www.autisminternetmodules.org/

Created by experts and practitioners and grounded in evidence-based strategies, Autism Internet Modules (AIM) are 51 free courses for parents, caregivers, teachers, and professionals to learn to better understand, identify, plan for, collaborate with, and support individuals with autism at home, at school, and in the community.

To access modules in other languages, click “Help” at the top of the web page, then “Start Access and Translation Tools.” Choose the tile with a Chinese character and the letter A to select your preferred language.

Autism Navigator

www.autismnavigator.com/

Free online courses and webinars to learn about autism spectrum disorder in toddlers and young children, and how to best support them.

NOTES:

Children's Mercy Hospital Autism Clinic Recorded Trainings

www.childrensmercy.org/departments-and-clinics/developmental-and-behavioral-health/autism-clinic/recorded-trainings/

Video trainings and previous webinars include, but are not limited to: ABA, managing problem behaviors, managing your child's home and school programs, eating and enjoying it, toilet training, sleep, autism & co-occurring GI conditions, promoting social skills & independence, morning routines, sensory survival skills, and setting up for IEP success.

Para ver los entrenamientos disponibles en español, véase: www.childrensmercy.org/es/departments-and-clinics/developmental-and-behavioral-health/autism-clinic/sesiones-de-entrenamiento-grabados/

Families Together, Inc.

3033 W. 2nd St., Rm. 122, Wichita, KS 67203
(316) 945-7747 | wichita@famieliestogetherinc.org
www.famieliestogetherinc.org

Offer several programs to help parents navigate healthcare and education systems, and parent training programs to build skills that benefit families in their day-to-day lives.

Heartspring - Parents' Night Out

(316) 631-8886 | tmoore@heartspring.org
www.heartspring.org/community/parents_night_out

Any parent in the community is welcome to apply for Parents' Night Out, a monthly respite opportunity for neurodiverse children ages 2 – 12 to enjoy fun, food, and games on the last Friday of each month while in the care of qualified staff. Siblings are welcome! The fee for the evening is \$25 for one child, \$40 for two children, and \$50 for three or more children. To secure your reservation, call the Outpatient Services desk

at (316) 634-8710 no later than 4 p.m. the Friday before the event. Financial assistance is available to qualifying families on a sliding-scale fee.

Janine K. Cravens Coaching

1445 N. Rock Rd., Ste. 130, Wichita, KS 67206
(316) 847-9824 | janine@janinekravenscoaching.com
www.janinekravenscoaching.com

Dr. Cravens offers autism parent coaching for parents of children ages 2 – 10. In addition to *Connecting Deeper with Your Autistic Child*, a 3-month program, individual trainings and coaching sessions are available. Parents are recommended to request a free consultation to determine which of the services offered would best meet your needs. Parent tips are posted on Instagram at www.instagram.com/connecting_autism_parent_tips/. Services are provided in English.

Kansas Family Support Center Webinars

kfsc.ku.edu/education

The Kansas Family Support Center is run by the University of Kansas' Center for Autism Research and Training. Previous webinars are available on YouTube at www.youtube.com/channel/UCHpoT4UPHzIpiRuC7Ri4Igw. Videos include, but are not limited to: Autism and Sleep, The Art of Feeding Children, Autism Today: Strengths, Challenges & Strategies, and Advocacy for the School-Age Child.



MyAutismTeam

www.myautismteam.com/

When you or a loved one are first diagnosed, it's not uncommon to feel alone and uncertain of where to find information and people that can help you grow. MyAutismTeam is a free social network that makes it easier to connect and to gain practical advice and insights on managing treatment and therapies for autism. Use the "Find People Like You" feature to connect with others based on location, diagnosis, and age. Share your stories and updates, ask questions, and browse an extensive library of resources and articles.

ParentTV through the Wichita Public Library

wichitalibrary.org/familyplace

Access thousands of parenting videos in multiple languages through the Wichita Public Library's subscription to ParentTV. Videos are available on a wide variety of topics. To see videos on autism, just enter "Autism" in the search bar after accessing the website. You will need an active library card to access ParentTV.

Online Local Support Groups

Online support groups can be a valuable resource to connect with other parents who are experiencing or have experienced the same struggles as you. Support groups on social media platforms may not be professionally moderated. You may need to request to join a private group before being able to see its content.

Connecting Deeper with Your Autistic Child: Support for Parents

www.facebook.com/groups/connectingwithyourautisticchild/

Created and run by Dr. Kesterton-Cravens of Janine K. Cravens Coaching and JKC Psych. Parents do not need to be receiving coaching services to join the Facebook group.

Kansas Children's Service League- Special Needs Parenting Virtual Support Group

1 (877) 530-5275

www.kcsl.org/kcsl-parent-support-groups/

KCSL's Special Needs Parenting support group meets virtually via Zoom on the third Monday of every month from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. This group is for all parents and caregivers of children with special needs. Learn helpful skills, discuss relevant topics, and connect with caregivers like you. Other parent supports are also available through KCSL. To register for this group and receive a link to join, visit: forms.office.com/r/AstnXUxSvW

Wichita Autism Support Facebook Group

www.facebook.com/groups/351260611663314/

A public group.

Wichita Autism & Sensory Disorder Parent Group

www.facebook.com/groups/379941248767772/

A private group for parents/family of children with ASD and SPD (sensory processing disorder) to talk, vent, and share struggles and accomplishments associated with ASD/SPD.

Wichita Mom Special Needs Community Resources

www.facebook.com/groups/833902183738175/

All parents are welcome! An online community group hosted by Wichita Mom.

Heartspring: Virtual Parent Training Sessions

www.heartspring.org/community/parent_training

Heartspring offers free virtual information and training sessions to enrich the lives of families impacted by neurodevelopmental disorders or delays. You can access the entire virtual training library through the link or on their website.

NOTES:



Hotlines

Autism Speaks: Autism Response Team

Toll-free phone number: 1 (888) 288-4726

Autism Speaks' Autism Response Team (ART) is an information and referral support for the autism community. The toll-free number listed above is active Monday-Friday in all time zones. Find out more here: www.autismspeaks.org/autism-response-team.

Autism Speaks: Autism Response Team Ayuda en español

Toll-free phone number: 1 (888) 772-9050

El equipo de apoyo de Autism Speaks (ART por sus siglas en inglés) es una fuente de información y apoyo de referencias para la comunidad autista. La línea telefónica está disponible de lunes a viernes en todas las zonas horarias. Para comunicarse por correo electrónico, escriba a: ayuda@autismspeaks.org.

Obtenga más información aquí: www.autismspeaks.org/autism-response-team.

1-800-CHILDREN

Powered by the Kansas Children's Service League (KCLS), 1-800-CHILDREN serves as a statewide call line and resource directory. 1-800-CHILDREN provides an outlet to discuss parenting questions 24 hours a day, 365 days a year by phone, app, website, and email. We're here to provide parenting support without judgment. Services available in over 200 languages.

13. Community Resources for Families

Studies show that parents of a child with autism face greater employment and financial strain than parents of children with other types of disabilities.²³

For a list of providers that may be able to assist you with your needs for information and referral, shelter and housing, food, clothing, employment and job training, children & youth services, medical needs, alcohol and drug services, credit and budget counseling, and mental health services, access United Way's Resource Guide by:

- Visiting unitedwayplains.org/211-information-and-referral
- Calling 211 to speak with a trained call specialist 24/7
- Texting your zip code to 898-211 to have referrals sent to your phone

For information and resources for childcare, financial assistance for families, child development & early learning, health and social services, visit childcare.gov/state-resources/kansas. This website is also available in Spanish.

Urban League of Kansas

2418 E. 9th St. N., Wichita, KS 67214
(316) 512-1071 | info@kansasul.org
www.kansasul.org

Serving as a community hub to provide residents with connections to employment services, educational opportunities, housing, and healthcare. Contact the Urban League of Kansas or visit the Urban League's resource center Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

14. Recreation

Children with autism often experience differences in what are considered typical social communication skills and sensory processing issues. These can impact the way they engage with others and the world around them, including how they play.

Going out into the community to run errands or visit community attractions can help develop a child's social skills, reduce their anxiety, foster independence, and increase well-being. Spending time outdoors in natural or structured play spaces is essential for a child's physical and emotional health. Outings are opportunities for children to follow their curiosity, discover new places, and spark interests. You might start with short outings and work up to longer excursions as you find what works best for your child. To make outings enjoyable, start close to home, bring along a preferred toy and, if needed, noise-cancelling headphones, take frequent water, sunscreen, or bathroom breaks, and don't stay too long.

To expose a child with autism to new things outside the home that may become lifelong interests, consider the following strategies:

1. Follow Their Lead: Observe what naturally interests them and build upon those activities.
2. Introduce gradually: Start with short, simple outings to new places and slowly increase the duration and complexity.
3. Use Visual Supports: Prepare them for outings with pictures, schedules, or stories about what to expect.

4. Incorporate Their Special Interests: Integrate your child's current interests into new activities to make them more appealing.
5. Be Patient and Flexible: Allow them time to adjust and be ready to change plans if they become overwhelmed.
6. Join in When You Can: Watch how your child plays and how they try to share their interests with you. Let them take the lead in play and follow along.
7. Provide Positive Reinforcement: Celebrate small successes to build confidence and encourage exploration.
8. Engage in Group Activities: Join clubs, teams, or community groups where they can explore shared interests with peers.
9. Model Enthusiasm: Show excitement and participation in activities to inspire their curiosity and willingness to try new things. This includes modeling how you engage in your own hobbies!

The *Visit Wichita* website has ideas for outings to local museums based on children's interests.** These are reproduced below. To gain free admission to some of these sites, check out an Experience Pass from the Wichita Public Library. Find out more at: www.wichitalibrary.org/things.

Airplanes: Kansas Aviation Museum, Exploration Place

Animals: Sedgwick County Zoo, Tanganyika Wildlife Park, Kansas Wildlife Exhibit at Riverside Park (feeding time is at noon!), Great Plains Nature Center

Art: Wichita Art Museum, Mid-America All-Indian Museum

** See www.visitwichita.com/blog/post/finding-autism-friendly-activities-in-wichita/

Automobiles: Great Plains Transportation Museum

Dinosaurs & Fossils: Museum of World Treasures, Field Station: Dinosaurs

Insects: Sedgwick County Zoo, Botanica Wichita (scavenger hunt opportunity!)

Living History: Old Cowtown Museum

Nature & the Outdoors: Wichita and Derby Parks, Botanica Wichita, Great Plains Nature Center

Puzzles: Exploration Place

Science & Discovery: Exploration Place, PBS KS Cochener-Garvey Children's Education & Discovery Center, Lake Afton Observatory

Sports: Kansas Sports Hall of Fame, Wichita Baseball Museum

Trains: Wichita Toy Train Club & Museum, ride the trains at Sedgwick County Zoo and O.J. Watson Park

TV & Movies: Bonavia Foundation PBS Kansas Museum

Did you know....? You can ask a librarian at any Wichita Public Library to help you find **free** materials and resources that match your child's interests. You can also check out telescopes, microscopes, binoculars, and STEAM to Go! Kits to bring discovery home with you. Call, visit your local library, or learn more online at www.wichitalibrary.org.

Sensory-Friendly Hours & Programs

Some businesses have sensory-friendly hours or programming to make their spaces more comfortable for individuals with autism. Walmart has sensory-friendly hours every day from 8 – 10 a.m. Other businesses with sensory-friendly hours and organizations with recreational programs and activities for children with disabilities are listed below.

Ability Point

2919 W. 2nd St., Wichita, KS 67203

(316) 943-1191

www.abilitypoint.org

Ability Point offers youth recreational programming for children and youth who have an intellectual and/or developmental disability who are age 5 and older, meaning that your child will never grow out of their socialization programs. Ability Point's youth programs and events like YESS Program, Discovery Days, Spring and Winter Break Camp, Circle of Friends, Youth Activity Days, Miss Unstoppable, and Family Nights provide fun, safe and supportive environments for special-needs kids to grow. The activities developed by Ability Point help children discover new talents and capabilities while building foundational skills essential to reaching their highest potential in life. Respite and recreational programs are available for USD 259 in-service days and when school is out of session. Parents should begin by completing a Programs Application online at: thearc.campintouch.com/ui/forms/application/camper/App. There is a fee for services.

AMC Theatres Sensory Friendly Films

3151 N. Penstemon St., Wichita, KS 67226
(316) 221-7267

www.amctheatres.com/search?q=sensory%20friendly

Family-friendly sensory film showings are available on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday and Saturday of each month. Check online for local showtimes. “We turn the lights up and the sound down so you can feel free to be you at these unique showings for people living with autism or other special needs.”

Intrust Bank Arena

500 E. Waterman, Wichita, KS 67202

Event Hotline: (316) 440-9150 | Front Desk: (316) 440-9000
info@intrustbankarena.com

www.intrustbankarena.com/

Intrust Bank Arena’s Sensory Room is a quieter and more secure environment where individuals with sensory needs can enjoy concerts and sporting events. Parents can check out a KultureCity Sensory Bag from the Guest Services desk to support their child’s visit at no extra cost. Sensory Bags include noise-reducing headphones, fidget toys, and visual cue cards. An event-specific Social Story to help children prepare for their visit can be accessed here: venue.kulturecity.org/venues/intrust-bank-arena.

Miracle League of Wichita

www.wichita.gov/462/Miracle-League-of-Wichita

The Miracle League of Wichita provides an opportunity for players with disabilities to join an athletic league with their peers. Individuals ages 5 – 21 can join a baseball (Fall) or bowling team (Winter). Individuals ages 5 – 25 can join a kickball (Spring) or swim team (Summer). A \$25 fee is required for registration. See website for more information.

Mulvane Public Library's Sensory Time

408 N. 2nd Ave., Mulvane, KS 67110

(316) 777-1211 | adult.prog@mulvanelibrary.org

www.mulvane.sckslslibrary.info/programs/story-time-wee-read/

Join Miss Victoria on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. for discovery play time. Sensory Time includes lots of fun activities, toys, and sensory materials for you and your child to play together.

Regal Warren West- My Way Matinee

9150 W. 21st St., Wichita, KS 67205

1 (844) 462-7342

www.regmovies.com/promotions/my-way-matinee

“My Way Matinee” showings are only available at the Regal Warren West location. Showings are the first show of the day on select Saturdays. My Way Matinee gives everyone the opportunity to experience a movie with the lights turned up and the volume turned down.

Special Olympics of Kansas

5280 Foxridge Dr., Mission, KS 66202

(913) 236-9290 | pr@soks.org

www.soks.org/

Children ages 8 and up can participate in opportunities to realize their potential, develop a healthy lifestyle, demonstrate courage, and experience joy and friendship through sports, regional and state competitions, and health and fitness programming. To qualify, children and youth must be identified by an agency or professional as having intellectual disabilities, cognitive delays, or significant learning or vocational problems due to cognitive delay.

Sporting Wichita's TOPSoccer Program

abby@sportingwichita.net

www.sportingwichita.net/top-soccer

TOPSoccer is an initiative designed to bring the beautiful game of soccer to children with disabilities at no cost to families. Through adapted activities and dedicated volunteers, TOPSoccer creates a space where players can develop their skills, build confidence, and experience the joy of teamwork. For children ages 4 and up. Sessions usually take place at Stryker Field. Register online.

Urban Air

8545 W. Irving St., Wichita, KS 67209

(316) 281-7173

www.urbanair.com/kansas-wichita/

Urban Air has sensory-friendly play on the 1st Tuesday of each month from 12 – 2 p.m. No light shows take place at this time and music is turned off. Regular ticket prices apply.

NOTES:

Activity Tracking Sheet

As you explore your child's interests and new outings and activities, it can be helpful to track what you try and how your child responds to give you ideas for the future.

An example is shown first and extra activity tracking sheets are provided after. Use these to make notes on what your child enjoys and brainstorm what to try next.

Date:	05/31/24	06/11/24
What We Did:	Went to the Sedgwick County Zoo	Went to the Wichita Art Museum
How interested was my child?	Not at all Somewhat <input checked="" type="radio"/> Very	Not at all <input checked="" type="radio"/> Somewhat Very
What was most interesting to my child?	The aquarium tunnel in the rainforest where the fish are on both sides above you.	Floor where you can look down at the glass objects.
How did my child show interest?	Watching the fish swim.	Walking around, staring down at sculptures and reflections
Can we build on this experience?	No Maybe <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Maybe Yes
What could we try next?	Visit aquariums at different pet stores. Check out books on fish from the library. Watch Finding Nemo. Go fishing.	Don't know

Date:		
What We Did:		
How interested was my child?	Not at all Somewhat Very	Not at all Somewhat Very
What was most interesting to my child?		
How did my child show interest?		
Can we build on this experience?	No Maybe Yes	No Maybe Yes
What could we try next?		

Date:		
What We Did:		
How interested was my child?	<p>Not at all</p> <p>Somewhat</p> <p>Very</p>	<p>Not at all</p> <p>Somewhat</p> <p>Very</p>
What was most interesting to my child?		
How did my child show interest?		
Can we build on this experience?	<p>No</p> <p>Maybe</p> <p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Maybe</p> <p>Yes</p>
What could we try next?		

Date:		
What We Did:		
How interested was my child?	Not at all Somewhat Very	Not at all Somewhat Very
What was most interesting to my child?		
How did my child show interest?		
Can we build on this experience?	No Maybe Yes	No Maybe Yes
What could we try next?		

Date:		
What We Did:		
How interested was my child?	Not at all Somewhat Very	Not at all Somewhat Very
What was most interesting to my child?		
How did my child show interest?		
Can we build on this experience?	No Maybe Yes	No Maybe Yes
What could we try next?		

Date:		
What We Did:		
How interested was my child?	Not at all Somewhat Very	Not at all Somewhat Very
What was most interesting to my child?		
How did my child show interest?		
Can we build on this experience?	No Maybe Yes	No Maybe Yes
What could we try next?		

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